

THIS OPINION WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR PUBLICATION

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today (1) was **not** written for publication in a law journal and (2) is **not** binding precedent of the Board.

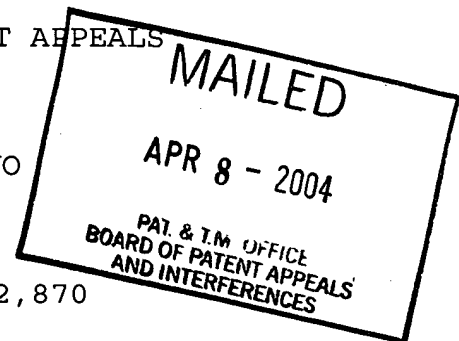
Paper No. 35

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte OSAMU SANO

Application No. 09/582,870



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on March 4, 2004. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

Upon review of the Examiner's Answer mailed on November 14, 2003 (Paper No. 31), it appears that no appeal conference has been conducted. According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1208 (8th ed., August 2001), when an appeal conference has been held, the appeal conference participants must identify themselves as the conferees, along with placing their initials next to their name. This procedure has not been completely followed,

thus raising the question of whether or not an appeal conference was held.

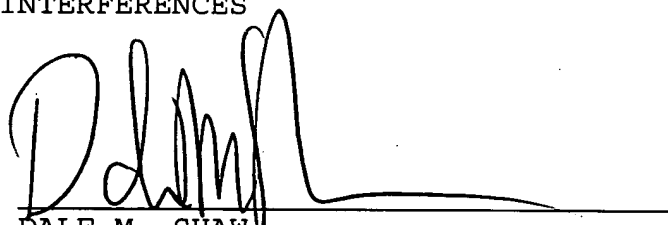
Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner for taking corrective action regarding the appeal conference, and for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Shaw', is written over a horizontal line.

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RA04-0335

Application No. 09/582,870

Page 3

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